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**FY 2019**  
**SMALL NEPA PROJECT DESCRIPTION**  
**Nez Perce-Clearwater National Forests**

Please **do not leave any field BLANK**, unless it does not apply.  
Submit form (Word doc) electronically to [jjchynoweth@fs.fed.us](mailto:jjchynoweth@fs.fed.us) by **May 9, 2019**.

*(NOTE: Italicized / red comments are for reference only. You may delete them when completing form.)*

<b>Project Name</b>	AVISTA New Line Request
<b>District Name (or "Forestwide")</b>	Red River Ranger District
<b>County where project located?</b>	Idaho
<b>FS Personnel Name, Phone Number and Email</b> <i>If a partnership, please add name, phone and email; however, an FS employee MUST BE the project proponent and point of contact.</i>	Adam McClory, Lands Uses Program Manager, <a href="mailto:amcclory@fs.fed.us">amcclory@fs.fed.us</a> , (208) 875-1734
<b>Legal Location</b> <i>Township(s), Range(s), and Section(s) of project.</i>	T. 29 N., R. 7 E., Sections 29, 30, and 32
<b>District Ranger / Line Officer's Name</b> <i>Person(s) responsible for signing the decision document</i>	Red River Ranger District, Terry Nevius
<b>Is the project associated with meeting a Forest target?</b>	No.
<b>Which CE Category does this project fit?</b> <i>Provide citation: 36 CFR 220.6(e)(x)</i> <i>See below regarding 220.6(d)(x) projects.</i>	36 CFR 220.6(e)(3) <i>Approval, modification, or continuation of minor special uses of NFS lands that require less than five contiguous acres of land.</i>
<b>A Project Record or written Decision are <u>not required</u> for projects for 36 CFR 220.6 (d) categories except at the Decision Maker's discretion.</b>  <i>IF being submitted under <u>36 CFR 220.6 (d)</u>, does the Decision Maker want a written Decision?</i> Yes      No  <i>If no, this form <b>does not</b> need to be filled out nor submitted to the Small NEPA planner.</i>  <i>If yes, provide the category above, complete the remainder of this form and have Decision Maker submit it to the Small NEPA planner.</i>	

**At what level does the Decision Maker want the project scoped?**

Internal X External\* \_\_\_\_

*Internal scoping will be through the Small NEPA IDT, unless otherwise specified. Scoping would be documented in the Extraordinary Circumstances Checklist.*

*External scoping will be with the public via a scoping letter, a legal notice, and the scoping letter posted on the NPCWNF website. The Project will only be scoped to the Tribe(s) et al (see \* below), unless otherwise specified.*

*\*For external scoping, please to complete block below.*

**Provide a list of the individuals, groups, agencies, etc. (other than those listed below\*) with their mailing address and/or email address, of those who will be included for external Scoping.**

- DO NOT provide only a name.
- DO NOT leave this box blank: If no additional individuals et al are to be scoped please enter N/A.

*\* The Nez Perce and Coeur d'Alene Tribes will be scoped. The following will also be included for all SN scoping: Friends of the Clearwater, Idaho Conservation League, Thomas E. Peterson and Bill Mulligan.*

**What Level of Analysis (below) does the Decision Maker want for the Project?**

X **Low level:** If the project's level of public scrutiny is projected to be relatively low or unknown, the line officer chooses who we would contact for scoping (limited). In this case specialists would only do the checklist for each project. Documentation for low level analysis projects would be a completed checklist filled out by the specialists, including the name of the specialist who performed the analysis, the project name, and date it was completed. No other written documentation would be generated.

\_\_\_\_ **Moderate level:** If the project's level of public scrutiny is projected to be relatively moderate to high, then the line officer chooses who we would contact for scoping (a little broader). In this case, specialists would complete the checklist with the only write up being for items that are present and the rationale for the effects call. No write up would be given for items in the checklist that are not present. If the determination is no effect (which generally speaking, most CE's should have zero to very little adverse effects), then document why that determination was made in one paragraph or less. If the determination is an adverse effect, then why that determination was made would be written in less three paragraphs.

**List the Management Area(s) in which your project is located.**

12D: Manage for timber production and other multiple uses on a sustained yield basis.

16D: Manage to increase usable forage for elk and deer on potential winter range.

**What are the desired conditions (*relevant to your project*) for the Management Area(s) listed above?**

12D: Visual Resources: Interim visual quality objectives are modification or maximum modification. Adopted VQOs will recognize sensitive (Sensitivity Level 1 and 2) viewpoints and travel routes.

16D: No desired conditions identified that are relevant to the project.

*Desired conditions are described in Chapters 2 & 3 of the Nez Perce and Clearwater Forest Plans.*

**Is the project in an Inventoried Roadless Area (IRA)?** Yes\* **No X**

If yes, which one?

*\* Fill in the 'Project in Roadless Area' table below, **AND** complete a Briefing Paper - note map requirements. Provide the completed Briefing Paper to the Environmental Coordinator and Brian Riggers prior to scoping.*

**Is the project in a congressionally designated area, ex. Wilderness Area, Wild & Scenic River Corridor, Research Natural Area, Historic Trail, etc.?** Yes\* **No X**

If yes, which one(s)?

*\* Please contact Carol Hennessey, [cahennessey@fs.fed.us](mailto:cahennessey@fs.fed.us), 935-4270, BEFORE submitting this proposal, to discuss how the project may affect the designated area.*

*\* For projects that occur in the **Lolo Trail National Historic Landmark**, please contact Steve Lucas, [slucas@fs.fed.us](mailto:slucas@fs.fed.us), 208-983-4040, BEFORE submitting this proposal, to discuss how the project may affect the designated area.*

**Are there Floodplains or Wetlands in the project area?** Yes **No X**

**Are there Municipal Watersheds in the project area?** Yes **No X**

If yes, which one?

**Is the project located in an RHCA?** Yes **No X**

**What is the Purpose and Need for the proposed action\*?**

Amend the existing AVISTA powerline authorization (CLE91) to establish two new rights-of-way (ROW) and provide service to a private landowner who currently does not have it.

*\* The purpose and need describes: Why the action being proposed at this location at this time (the problem/the need for the action?). And the desired goal/outcome (the purpose) of the action.*

**Describe the Existing Condition of the project area.**

AVISTA currently provides service along Highway 14 and to property owners adjacent to the Highway. Therefore, much of the area is already disturbed with powerline infrastructure. It will be described in detail below, but this request will include development of a new ROW for overhead powerline (approximately 200' in length x 27' in width) that is currently vegetated and a new ROW for buried powerline (approximately 12,600' in length x 5' in width) along existing NFS Roads.

### **Describe the Proposed Action.**

The proposed actions to complete this project will include:

- Develop a new ROW, approximately 200' long x 27' wide across NFS Lands (.1 acre of ground disturbance). This work will be done by chainsaw with a mini-excavator used to clear the new ROW once trees have been felled. The new ROW will begin at the location of existing AVISTA ROW and connect to new pole on the edge of NFS Road 492. See detailed map.
- Bury a new pole in existing AVISTA ROW approximately 6.5' deep to string new 200' section of line.
- Bury a new pole on the edge of NFS 492 approximately 6.5' deep to connect overhead powerline with the existing pole.
- Bury an anchor to stabilize both new poles approximately 6' deep. This anchor install will be hand dug at the existing pole and completed with a backhoe at the new pole location along NFS 492.
- Bury powerline in existing road prisms to develop a new ROW 12,600' long x 5' wide across NFS Lands (approximately 1.5 acres of ground disturbance), including:
  - NFS Road 492 (approximately 10,200' or 1.93 miles)
  - NFS Road 9823 (approximately 1,600' or .30 miles)
  - NFS Road 9823A (approximately 800' or .15 miles)

Powerline will be buried 36" deep in the existing road prism with a vibratory plow, with any surface disturbance bladed back to original condition.

The new overhead line of 200' and buried line of approximately 12,600' would be included as an Amendment to AVISTA's existing authorization and included in the annual fees paid for use of NFS Lands.

All work will be completed by AVISTA utilities, with an expected implementation date of summer/fall 2019. All project work will be accessed via NFS Road 492.

Project equipment will include the following:

- Chainsaws and mini-excavator will be used to clear the 200' x 27' ROW
- Backhoe to install power pole and anchor adjacent to NFS Road 492
- Hand tools to install anchor adjacent to existing pole (200' from NFS Road 492)
- Vibratory plow will be used to bury the powerline 36" deep in the existing road prism of NFS Roads 492, 9823 and 9823A.

Forest Service representatives will be on-site periodically to monitor development of the ROW, installation of the pole and anchor, and burying the line with the vibratory plow. It is expected that project work will begin sometime in July, but will depend on amount of moisture in the soil (they will wait until soil has dried enough to limit disturbance).

AVISTA will monitor for the presence of weeds in the 200' x 27' ROW and will treat as necessary.

Maintenance of the ROW will be the responsibility of AVISTA as stipulated in their current Forest Service authorization.

The Forest Service is not planning to haul on any of the roads that will be worked on with implementation of this project. With the width of the road, and the fact that AVISTA will be burying the power line on the edge of the existing road prism, there should not be a need to close the road during the line burying. With that said, AVISTA will include signage on both ends of the road indicating that road work is taking place. All AVISTA representatives will have radios and be in regular contact with each other. In the off chance that a road closure is needed, it would likely only be 1-2 hours and traffic control can be undertaken by AVISTA

**List the Design Criteria / Mitigation Measures \* to be included with the Proposed Action.**

- NW-3: Remove all mud, soil, and plant parts from off road equipment before moving into project area to limit the spread of noxious weeds. Conduct cleaning off National Forest lands.

*\* Additional Design Criteria/Measures can be listed under "Additional Information" on the last page of this form*

**Small NEPA IDT/resource specialists are listed below. Contact them if you have any questions regarding their resource for your project.**

Botany – Mike Hays, [mhays01@fs.fed.us](mailto:mhays01@fs.fed.us); 983-4028

Fisheries – Derrick Bawdon, [dbawdon@fs.fed.us](mailto:dbawdon@fs.fed.us); 963-4211

Heritage – Steve Lucas, [slucas@fs.fed.us](mailto:slucas@fs.fed.us); 983-4040

Hydrology – Cynthia Valle, [cvalle@fs.fed.us](mailto:cvalle@fs.fed.us); 963-4203

Minerals – Marty Jones, [martinjones@fs.fed.us](mailto:martinjones@fs.fed.us); 983-5158

Recreation – Carol Hennessey, [cahennessey@fs.fed.us](mailto:cahennessey@fs.fed.us); 935-4270

Soils – Alex Rozin, [alexandrarozin@fs.fed.us](mailto:alexandrarozin@fs.fed.us); 842-2100

Wild and Scenic River – Chris Noyes, [chnoyes@fs.fed.us](mailto:chnoyes@fs.fed.us); 935-4251

Wildlife – Jim Lutes, [jamesrlutes@fs.fed.us](mailto:jamesrlutes@fs.fed.us); 963-4202

## PROJECT MAPS

Please send – separate from this form and per the instructions outlined below – a GIS-generated map or maps of the project area (pdf format only) with the project submission email.

- Make sure that the map layers can be turned on / off / are editable.
- Make sure the map(s) fits on an 8.5 x 11 sheet of paper.

Provide at least one map, preferably “portrait” orientation, with the project area / features as:

- a Point, e.g. culvert, bridge, etc.,
- a Line, e.g. fence, road, creek, etc., and/or
- a Polygon, e.g. stand boundaries, treatment areas, etc.
  - Do not use a point if treating an area, use a polygon.
  - Points/lines/polygons need to be distinct and easily found on the map.
  - The project area / site needs to be centered on the map, especially if only one area/feature.

Please use the Forest Visitor Map as your map’s base layer.

- Do not add contour lines to the FV map unless needed for clarifying the proposed action. Contour lines can make the map difficult to read.
  - If contour lines are needed, make sure they are distinguishable from other linear features such as roads, trails, streams, etc.
- A topo map can be substituted for the FV map. If using a topo map but the contour lines are not important the topo lines should be light gray or opaque.
- Regardless of base map, make sure there are identifiable elements, e.g. towns, roads, streams, etc. on the map to help locate the project area on the landscape and that the elements are clearly labeled.

The preferred map scale (typically 1:24K) is whatever scale best presents the project area’s location and proposed activities:

- If the 1:24K scale is too small (i.e. the project feature(s) – point/line/polygon – would be hard to find or would be indistinguishable on just one map), use a larger scale to show the overall project area (coarse scale map) and smaller scaled maps to show the project features (fine scale map).
- If the 1:24K scale is too big (i.e. the project feature is a tiny point or thin line lost/hard to find on the larger landscape), use a smaller scale to highlight the feature while ensuring there are elements on the map to identify the project’s location.
- If you need to make additional maps, please make as few as possible.

At a minimum, all maps should include (with the preferred but not set in stone location on the map):

- a Title (project name and district name only (please); centered at top)
- a Legend (features clearly labeled; lower right corner)
- a Scale (in half mile, e.g. 0\_\_0.25\_\_0.5 miles, or full miles, e.g. 0\_\_0.25\_\_0.5\_\_1.0 miles; lower left corner)
- a North Arrow (upper right corner)
  - Display all of the above in boxes with black outlines and a white backgrounds (not gray or yellow)
  - Do not ‘Halo’ the text or numbers or anything else on the map. Please.
  - The Scale needs to be large enough to read the numbers.

Finally, please include the mapmakers name and the date it was created on the map.

**The Map(s) you provide will be used for Scoping the Public and the Tribes and in the Decision document. Please make sure they show – clearly, effectively, and professionally – what activity or activities are being proposed and where they are located on the Nez Perce - Clearwater National Forests.**

### SHAPEFILES

The resource specialists require the shapefile(s) of the project's proposed activities before they will conduct their analyses. Providing the shapefile does not substitute for providing a pdf map.

The Project Proponent needs to send the shapefile, or a location where the shapefile can be found, to the Small NEPA Planner (currently: jjchynoweth@fs.fed.us) by the time or shortly after the District Ranger submits this form.

- Shapefiles need to include the Project Name and have the Feature (culvert, bridge, etc.) labeled.
- Shapefiles need to include the following extensions – .dbf, .prj, .sbn, .shp, .shx, and .xml.

**PROPONENT:** When submitting the shapefile(s) you must include in the email how the location(s) of the project feature(s), i.e. line, point, and/or polygon, were determined (see below):

- Field-collected GPS data;
- From existing corporate GIS data (provide name of GIS layer);
- Created (digitized) from an aerial photo;
- Created (digitized) from the existing corporate GIS data;
- Created (digitized) from the NPCLW Visitor Map;
- Other (describe).

## Projects in Roadless Area

<p><b>What is the Inventoried Roadless Area name?</b></p> <p><i>O:\NFS\NezPerceClearwater\Project\MultiBasin\Planning\Small_NEPA_Cat_Ex\Reference Material\Roadless Rule Info</i></p>	<p><b><u>Forest Plan IRA Name (if different):</u></b></p>
<p><b>Identify the Idaho Roadless Management Classification:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Wild Land Recreation</i></li> <li>• <i>Special Areas of Historic or Tribal Significance</i></li> <li>• <i>Primitive</i></li> <li>• <i>Backcountry Restoration</i></li> <li>• <i>General Forest, Rangeland and Grassland</i></li> </ul>	<p><b>Classification(s):</b></p>
<p><b>Does the project involve constructing or reconstructing roads?</b> Yes* No</p> <p>* If yes, see <a href="http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/CFR-2011-title36-vol2">http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/CFR-2011-title36-vol2</a> then navigate to Subpart C 294.23</p>	
<p><b>Does the project involve cutting trees?</b> Yes* No</p> <p>* If yes, see <a href="http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/CFR-2011-title36-vol2">http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/CFR-2011-title36-vol2</a> then navigate to Subpart C 294.24</p>	
<p><b>Does the project involve removing minerals, including common variety minerals?</b> Yes* No</p> <p>* If yes, see <a href="http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/CFR-2011-title36-vol2">http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/CFR-2011-title36-vol2</a> then navigate to Subpart C 294.25</p>	



Additional Information: